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CIA-KGB rendezvous

The CIA denied yesterday that top agency officials met with the Soviet KGB during the summit. Commenting on the news reports of the CIA-KGB meetings, CIA spokesman William Baker said they "did not occur. I'm unaware that any such discussions took place," and "maybe the KGB is playing games with us."

He declined to elaborate on other details contained in the news reports. A British tabloid reported that the KGB told the CIA that foreign hostages held captive by Islamic fundamentalists in Lebanon were being tortured with drugs.

However, another intelligence official said that in the past KGB and CIA operatives have held clandestine meetings. "The KGB is a bad outfit," said the official. "This isn't a game and those things give it a game-like quality that is dangerous."

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The Washington Post
The New York Times
The Washington Times A-K
The Wall Street Journal
The Christian Science Monitor
New York Daily News
USA Today
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Date 14 Dec. '87

KGB chiefs tell CIA hostages are drugged

LONDON (AP) — KGB chiefs told their CIA counterparts last week that foreign hostages in Beirut are alive but in dreadful condition and are frequently drugged by an Iranian physician, a British journalist reported yesterday.

Gordon Thomas said in an article in The Sunday Express and in an interview on Independent Radio News that Soviet and American intelligence chiefs met twice during the Washington summit.

He cited unidentified sources in the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Israel and the Middle East.

In Washington, a senior White House official was asked to comment on the report and he said he was "unaware that any such discussions had been undertaken" between the KGB and CIA.

A radio station in Beirut said yesterday that a close aide to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is in Lebanon on a mission linked to the plight of foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Moslem extremists.

Mr. Thomas said the intelligence sessions, attended by the CIA's director of operations and the head of the KGB's Middle East desk, represent "a dramatic breakthrough because ... the Americans have persuaded the Russians to bring their considerable weight and authority to bear on the Shi'ite Moslems."

The Soviets told the Americans that Dr. Ibrahim al-Nahir was "managing" the hostages with drugs so they can be easily interrogated and moved without making a break for freedom, he said.

Mr. Thomas said the physician has been working in Beirut for three years for the pro-Iranian Shi'ite fundamentalist group Hezbollah.

The Soviets said those under Dr. al-Nahir's control include Anglican envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in Beirut last January while trying to negotiate the release of Western hostages, Mr. Thomas said. He said Mr. Waite is being held in the Fakhani neighborhood of Moslem west Beirut not far from the Soviet Embassy.

No other hostages were mentioned by name.

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